

REMARKS

Applicant's counsel thanks Examiner Harper for her continued careful and thorough examination of the present application. Applicant also appreciates the indication in the last Office action of allowed claims 1-17, 22-24, 26-28 and 30-32, and of allowable subject matter in claims 19, 20 and 29. Claims 5 and 6 have been amended to correct antecedent basis and claim 7 has been amended for consistency of terminology. Claim 18 also has been amended to more clearly describe the invention.

Claim 18 has been rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being allegedly unpatentable over Bardos et al. Specifically, the Examiner points out at ¶ 2 of the Office action that "[t]he phosphor layer is made of a luminescent material and a small quantity of calcium." However, this is not the structure recited in claim 18. Claim 18 recites a phosphor layer disposed adjacent the envelope surface, and "a mercury barrier layer disposed adjacent said phosphor layer." Thus, in the structure recited in claim 18, the mercury barrier layer (which may contain calcium) is a separate layer, disposed adjacent the phosphor layer, not provided in or as part of the phosphor layer itself.

To help clarify this distinction, claim 18 has been amended to recite "a separate mercury barrier layer disposed adjacent said phosphor layer...." Basis for this amendment is found in claim 18 as already pending, in Fig. 3 where the barrier layer 16 is shown as a separate layer from the phosphor layer 14, and also in the specification at paragraph [0026].

The addition of the word "separate" in claim 18 merely serves to clarify the structure already recited in that claim. Therefore, it is believed the invention as now claimed in 18 already has been searched, and that no further searching should be necessary. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested the present amendment be entered in this case, and that the case be passed for allowance.

Should the Examiner have any questions concerning the instant submission, she is invited to please contact the undersigned attorney at the phone number provided below.

If there are any fees resulting from this communication, please charge same to our Deposit Account No. 16-0820, our Order No. 33916.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: July 15, 2004